

## ***Indicator 16: Workers Employed in Occupations and Industries with High Risk for Occupational Mortality***

### **Significance<sup>i</sup>**

Each year, over 4,600 cases of work-related fatalities are reported to the Census of Fatal Occupational injuries (CFOI) program administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). On average, 14 workers die per day as a result of injuries sustained at work throughout the United States. Certain industries and occupations have an increased risk for occupational mortality. Forty industries and sixty-two occupations have fatality rates that are at least double the national average of 7.5 deaths per 100,000 workers. For tracking the Occupational Health Indicators, these industries and occupations have been designated as high-risk for occupational mortality. Example industries with higher risk for mortality include mining and extraction operations, crop and animal production, various transportation services and select manufacturing industries. Example occupations with higher risk for mortality include farmers and ranchers, fire fighters, roofers, highway maintenance workers, construction and manufacturing equipment operators, motor vehicle operators and railroad workers.<sup>ii</sup>

### **Methods**

The BLS collects information on the percentage of workers employed in industries and occupations throughout the United States. The BLS Current Population Survey was used to calculate the number and percent of workers employed in high-risk industries and occupations in Colorado and the United States. The percent of workers employed in high-risk occupations are reported from 2003 to 2008 based on census occupational and industry codes for employed persons age 16 or older in Colorado and the United States. These data were collected from the BLS Current Population Survey (CPS) using the DataFerrett application, which allows data queries for specific industry and occupation codes. (<http://dataferrett.census.gov>)

The list of high-risk occupations and industries is updated by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) every five years. It was most recently updated for collection of 2008-2012 data, so earlier years of data are not directly comparable.

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<sup>i</sup> Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. *Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants*. Last updated April 2012.

<sup>ii</sup> The complete list is available in the CSTE publication, *Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants*.

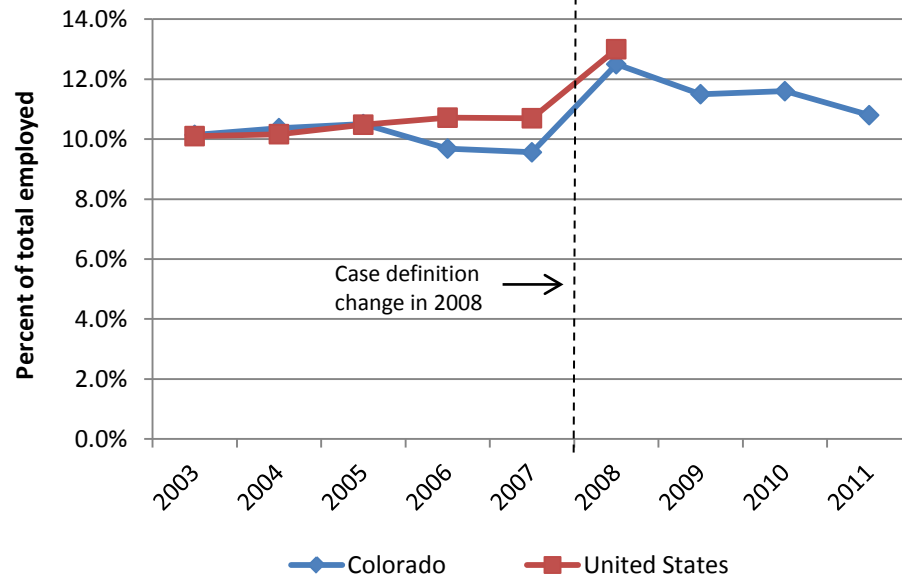
## Results

Table 16.1 Workers employed in occupations and industries at high risk for occupational mortality, Colorado and United States, 2003-2011*				
Year	% of workers employed in high risk occupations		% of workers employed in high risk industries	
	Colorado	United States	Colorado	United States
<b>2003</b>	10.1%	10.1%	14.6%	13.5%
<b>2004</b>	10.4%	10.2%	15.0%	13.5%
<b>2005</b>	10.5%	10.5%	14.8%	14.2%
<b>2006</b>	9.7%	10.7%	14.9%	14.5%
<b>2007</b>	9.6%	10.7%	15.1%	14.3%
	<i>Case definition change</i>		<i>Case definition change</i>	
<b>2008</b>	12.5%	13.0%	17.8%	16.6%
<b>2009</b>	11.5%	Not Calculated	16.1%	Not Calculated
<b>2010</b>	11.6%	Not Calculated	17.5%	Not Calculated
<b>2011</b>	10.8%	Not Calculated	14.6%	Not Calculated

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

\*2008-2011 data collected according to an updated list of high-risk industries and are not comparable to prior years. 2011 data is preliminary.

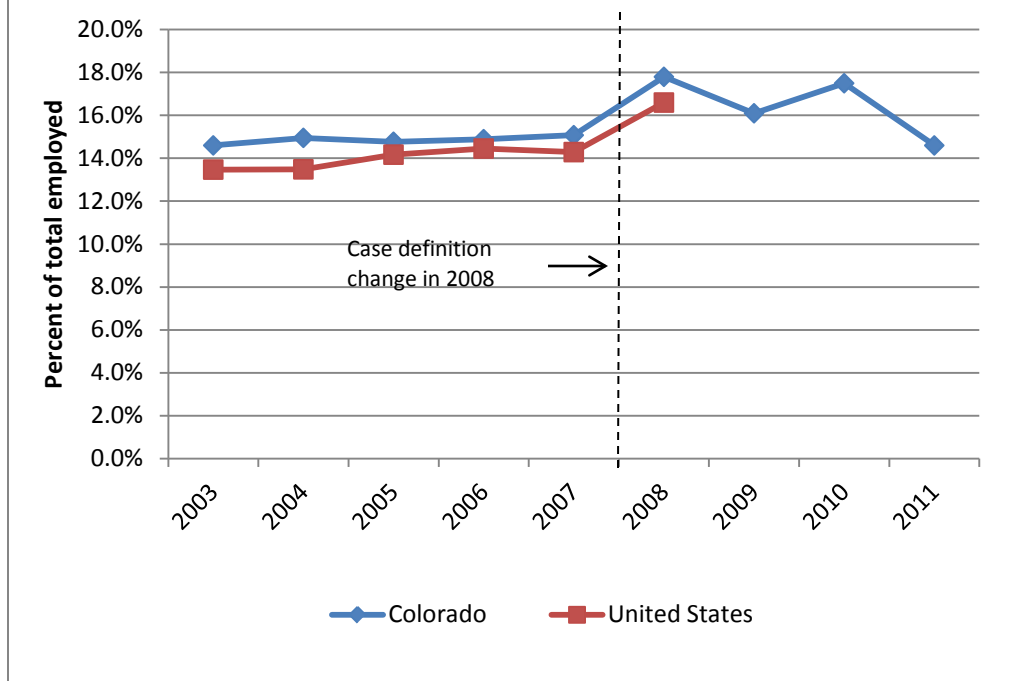
**Figure 16.1 Percent of workers employed in occupations at high risk for occupational mortality in Colorado and the United States, 2003-2011\***



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

\*2008-2011 data collected according to an updated list of high-risk industries and are not comparable to prior years. 2011 data is preliminary.

**Figure 16.2 Percent of workers employed in industries at high risk for occupational mortality in Colorado and the United States, 2003-2011\***



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

\*2008-2011 data collected according to an updated list of high-risk industries and are not comparable to prior years. 2011 data is preliminary.

### Limitations

- BLS CFI data are used to identify national trends for industries and occupations at high risk for mortality. See Indicator # 3 (Work-related Fatalities) for more information about CFI data limitations. The true ranking of high-risk occupations and industries may differ by state.

### Recommendations and Next Steps

- Investigate methods to identify Colorado-specific high-risk occupations and industries, which may be different from high-risk industries and occupations defined with national injury/illness statistics. This information will help target occupational mortality prevention efforts.